

## LIE NO. 1!

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## Army 'Disk' Storm Stilled; It's Only a Weather Device

FORT WORTH, July 8—AP—An object found near Roswell, N. M., which created a storm of speculation today that it might be one of the mysterious flying "disks" or "saucers" was a weather balloon and its kite, the Eighth Air Force announced tonight.

The announcement was made by Brig. Gen. Robert M. Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force with headquarters at Fort Worth.

The object was flown from Roswell to Fort Worth by the air force, where it was identified by Warrant Officer Irving Newton of Medford, Wis., of the base weather station.

### Traced by Radar

General Ramey said that several of the balloons were released daily according to changes in the weather.

Army weather experts in Washington, however, discounted any idea that such weather targets might be the basis for the scores of reports of "flying discs."

Suspended from the balloons are kites or six-sided stars, covered with a shiny material such as tinfoil. These objects are traced by radar and computations from the radar reveal air currents.

The object found in New Mexico was badly damaged.

The balloons measure 50 inches across but expand greatly as they ascend, Air Force officers reported. They sometimes reach 60,000 feet. The kites and stars generally are more than five feet in diameter.

The balloon and the object it carries are technically known as ray wind high altitude sounding device, popularly known as "weather radar target."

### Further Study Halted

General Ramsey said the object found in New Mexico definitely was a United States Army device.

Plans to fly the object to Wright Field for further investigation were cancelled.

A Public Relations officer said it was in his office, "and it'll probably stay right there."

General Ramey spoke over a local radio station tonight after the Eighth Air Force headquarters was flooded with queries concerning the object.

In his broadcast, he said that anyone who found an object they believed to be a "flying disk" should contact the nearest Army office or sheriff's office.

Later, he said that the weather device could be mistaken for almost anything when seen in the air.

"I don't say these devices are what people have called disks," he said. "There is no such gadget (as the disk known to the Army at least this far down the line.)"

Warrant Officer Newton said there were some 80 weather stations in the United States using this type of balloon.

"We use them because they can go so much higher than the eye can see," Newton explained. A radar set is employed to follow the balloon and through a process of triangulation the winds aloft are charted, he added.

When rigged up, Newton stated, the object looks like a six-point star, is silvery in appearance, and rises in the air like a kite, mounted to a 100-gram balloon.

Newton said he had sent up identical balloons to this one during the invasion of Okinawa to determine ballistics information for heavy guns.

### Flown from Roswell

This weather device was flown to Fort Worth Army Air Field by B-29 from Roswell Army Air Field at 10 a. m. Tuesday at the command of Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, 8th Air Force commanding officer here.

It had been found three weeks previously by a New Mexico rancher, W. W. Brazell, on his property about 85 miles northwest of Roswell. Brazell, whose ranch is 30 miles from the nearest telephone and has no radio, knew nothing about flying disks when he found the broken remains of the weather device scattered over a square mile of his land.

He bundled the tinfoil and broken wooden beams of the kite and the torn synthetic rubber remains of the balloon together and rolled it under some brush, according to Major Jesse A. Marcell, Houma, La., 509 Bomb Group intelligence officer at Roswell, who brought the device to FWAAF.

On a trip to town at Corona, N. M., Saturday night, Brazell heard the first reference to the "silver" flying disks, Major Marcell related.

Brazell hurried home, dug up the remnants of the kite and balloon on Sunday and Monday headed for Roswell to report his find to the sheriff's office.

This resulted in a call to Roswell Army Air Field and to Major Marcell's being assigned to the case. Marcell and Brazell journeyed back to the ranch, where Marcell took the object into the custody of the Army.

After Col. William H. Blanchard, 509th commanding officer, reported the incident to General Ramey, he was ordered to dispatch the object to Fort Worth Army Air Field immediately.

About that time, word broke from Roswell that a flying disk finally had been found.

After his first look, Ramey declared all it was was a weather balloon. The weather officer verified his view.

BY JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

P. O. BOX 58485

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485



## Mysterious 1947 crash explained

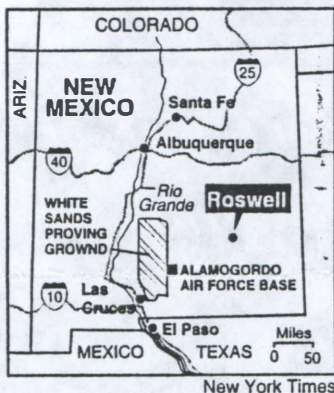
Air Force report deflates conspiracy theory; flying-saucer fans won't buy it

By WILLIAM J. BROAD  
New York Times

A mysterious 1947 crash in the New Mexico desert that became legendary among flying-saucer fans and cover-up theorists turned out to have involved something nearly as strange as an alien spaceship.

The wreckage, quickly whisked away by the Air Force, was part of an airborne system for atomic-age spying that was invented by a leading geophysicist and developed by Columbia University, New York University and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, according to an Air Force report on the once-secret project as well as principals in the project and academics familiar with it.

The program was called Project Mogul, and its goal, set by a postwar America wary of losing its atomic monopoly, was to search high in the atmosphere for weak reverberations from nuclear-test blasts half a world away.



The debris, found near Roswell, N.M., was a smashed part of the program's balloons, sensors and, of most consequence to the growth of spaceship theories, radar reflectors made of thin metal foil.

At the time, the Air Force said the wreckage was that of a weather balloon, a white lie. But over the

decades, the incident grew to mythic dimensions among flying-saucer cultists, who spun slim evidence into weighty charges while touting conspiracy theories in scores of books, articles and television shows.

The United States, they said, had possession of alien bodies and other-worldly gear that was incredibly thin and strong. The government, they charged, made death threats to keep knowledgeable people quiet. It studied extraterrestrial craft to learn the secrets of making stealth bombers and fiber-optic communications networks. Roswell was the greatest of all governmental cover-ups.

On Sept. 8, after an eight-month investigation, the Air Force issued a thick report that to all appearances deflates the conspiracy theory once and for all. Of course, ardent flying-saucer fans contend that the cover-up continues.

"This won't lay it to rest," Col. Albert C. Trakowski, retired, who as an Air Force officer had run Project

Mogul, said with a sigh in an interview. "The psychology is simple: People believe what they want to believe. In New Mexico, flying saucerism has become a minor industry. There are whole museums dedicated to the presentation of outrageous fictions."

The saga of Project Mogul and its repercussions was pieced together from the Air Force report and a host of supporting documents, as well as from interviews with Mogul officials and scholars who study the history of atomic espionage.

Walter G. Haut, president of the International U.F.O. Museum and Research Center in Roswell, said in an interview that the Air Force was up to its old tricks.

"It's a bunch of pap," he said of the report. "All they've done is given us a different kind of balloon. Then it was weather, and now it's Mogul. Basically I don't think anything has changed. Excuse my cynicism, but let's quit playing games."

Houston Post 9-9-94

## Air Force says Roswell UFO was secret balloon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A supposed alien spacecraft discovered near Roswell, N.M., in 1947 likely was a secret Army Air Force balloon designed to monitor Soviet nuclear testing, the Air Force concluded Thursday.

The material found near Roswell consisted of foil-wrapped

fabric, sticks, rubber pieces and small I-beams with strange markings on them.

"The Air Force research did not locate or develop any information that the 'Roswell Incident' was a UFO event," wrote Col. Richard Weaver. "The most likely source of the wreckage... was from Project Mogul balloon trains."

## 1947 UFO finally identified

By Dennis Cauchon  
USA TODAY

This time, UFO Mystery No. 1 is really solved.

The Air Force, after 47 years of silence, finally admitted Thursday it was responsible for the famous flying saucer of Roswell, N.M.

Behind the mystery: wreckage found in a rancher's field in 1947.

The Air Force says it lied when it originally explained the wreckage away as a "weather" balloon.

The 1994 version: The balloon was part of "Project Mogul," a secret effort to use long-range balloons to monitor Soviet nuclear tests.

The 23-page report denies the military covered up the

recovery of a crashed spaceship and four dead aliens.

The "Roswell Incident" — subject of many books and TV shows — is among the most famous UFO sightings.

"It is considered the best UFO case, the most thoroughly investigated and most authenticated," says Don Berlner of the Fund for UFO Research.

Are UFO buffs satisfied with the Air Force's confession? Are you from Mars?

It's "pathetic," Berlner says. "We expected they'd blame Project Mogul."

Says Walter Haut, 72, who works at one of two UFO museums in Roswell: "This is another cover-up."

► The Roswell legend, 6A